

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

8. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~preventing and~~ treating hepatic cirrhosis or bile duct disappearance syndrome comprising the step of administering a Fas antagonist to a patient in need thereof, and inhibiting apoptosis mediated by Fas.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said Fas antagonist is a substance which suppresses binding between Fas and Fas ligand.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said Fas antagonist is a Fas derivative.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said Fas antagonist is a polypeptide which inhibits Fas-mediated apoptosis and which is selected from the group consisting of extracellular domain of Fas, a truncated form of the extracellular domain of Fas, a truncated form of a Fas which is deleted in the transmembrane domain and a chimeric protein comprising said polypeptide and an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said Fas antagonist is an anti-Fas ligand antibody.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said hepatic cirrhosis is biliary cirrhosis.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said hepatic cirrhosis is primary biliary hepatic cirrhosis.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said bile duct disappearance syndrome is bile duct disappearance syndrome caused by an immunological mechanism.

17. (New) A method for preventing and treating bile duct disappearance syndrome which comprises the step of administering a Fas antagonist to a patient in need thereof and inhibiting apoptosis mediated by Fas.

18. (New) A method for treating hepatic cirrhosis which comprises the step of administering a Fas antagonist to a patient in need thereof and inhibiting apoptosis mediated by Fas.